

Appl. No. 09/932,304  
Response dated May 7, 2003  
Reply to Office action of April 8, 2003

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has indicated that the application encompasses two groups of inventions, namely Group I (Claims 1-72) drawn to a molecular model of an amino acid and Group II (Claims 73-102) drawn to a molecular model of a nucleic acid. Applicants elect to prosecute Group I, with traverse, and respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in view of the following.

Applicants respectfully contend that there will not be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. The amino acid and nucleic acid molecular models are so inextricably related that the inventions should be examined in the same application. A search of the prior art generally relating to molecular models (whether patent or non-patent prior art) will result in a complete and thorough search of the subject matter of Groups I and II. Practicality, efficiency, and the lack of serious burden on the Examiner dictate that the claims should be retained and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

In addition, the restriction requirement, if sustained, will prejudice Applicants because of the increased costs to Applicants arising from further substantial fees and prosecution costs. The assignee of the application, the Milwaukee School of Engineering, is a private university and a small entity. The prosecution costs for a second patent application will significantly prejudice Applicants' ability to obtain patent protection for their invention.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and, in the alternative, consideration of Claims 1-72 on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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